

**Testimony of Dick Rogers Retired Central Maine Power Service Worker and  
Business Manager IBEW 1837 Currently working and as Consultant to IBEW 1837  
and with the Maine Affordable Energy Coalition.**

**Against L.D. 1959**

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy and Utilities, my name is Dick Rogers. I worked for CMP for nearly 40 years the last 10 as Business Manager for local 1837 which represents approximately 1600 workers in Maine and New Hampshire with roughly 850 to 900 workers at Central Maine Power and Emera Maine.

I never intended to be before you again but I believe the issue of Government Controlled Power is an important one which I believe is bad for the ratepayers and the employees of CMP, Versant and the many contractors who do utility work.

In full disclosure while I retired from CMP, I continue to be a member of IBEW 1837 serving in a parttime consultant's role for IBEW 1837. I also came fully out of retirement in December of 2021 to work for the Maine Affordable Energy Coalition to oppose the referendum question concerning Government Controlled Power. I'm supported in that effort by a large and getting larger group of Unions across Maine including the support of the national IBEW who have come out publicly opposing Government Controlled Power.

I want to be clear that I was not hired to oppose LD 1959, but as an informed ratepayer and as a staff member of IBEW 1837 I was given the authority to speak in opposition.

I was very involved with what I believe was the prelude to LD 1959 Seth Berry's bill LD 1708. I was involved in that bill almost since its creation. Seth had contacted me early on and wanted my knowledge, experience and opinion on his proposal to form a Maine Power Authority.

When this was rolled out to the public and media my statement was, "something had to change at our Utilities – staffing, Seth's Bill, or something else but there must be a change".

And something did change. It was and continues to be my opinion that at least partly due to Seth's proposed bill and PUC actions, needed changes happened and continue to happen at Maine's Utilities. Those changes including increases to the number of customer reps and field personnel along with more commitment to updating the infrastructure. It's my opinion the PUC has the ability to make sure the Utilities are held accountable and measured against their own record and history not that of some contrived industry standards. Its unfathomable to think that government trying to run the company at a cost estimated to be over \$13.5 billion dollars is a good idea. We all

know how deregulation, mandated by the state in the late 90's, has worked out for the Maine ratepayers, just look at your current energy supplier costs. Yet where are these same critics of our Utilities?

In addition to the increased staffing over the past few years many are not aware of recent management changes at CMP. If it had not been for the changes including the hiring Joe Purington as President/CEO of CMP I might have remained silent. Of all the hundreds of management people I've found myself dealing with over my tenure as Business Manager for IBEW 1837 and my 40 years in the Utility world, Joe is the most competent and trusted person I have ever dealt with. Joe is a born Mainer with the Utility experience and drive to bring back CMP to the company we used to know. He's already made major changes including bringing back all "directors" to Maine. Now decisions are being made in Maine not NY or Connecticut. Hiring VP of Operations Adam Derosiers was a perfect example of Joe's leadership. Adam has what it takes to make sure operations has the needed resources to make sure they continue to improve in the reliability of our system.

At Versant John Flynn was brought on as President in November of 2021 and brings vast experience in the electric industry. To date John has been interested in all facets customer service and has committed to working with IBEW 1837 to have a great workforce which in turns makes for great customer service.

From the Unions point of view Public Sector Unions also have a more difficult time negotiating fair contracts which is in part due to the fact that the threat of strikes is illegal.

Again, it's my personal and the IBEW 1837's position this bill would not solve the problems the Utilities have had in the past but create more. I would ask that LD1959 ought not to pass.

Thank you